

A Randomised Field Trial Evaluating the Adoption of a Novel Health Systems Framework in Ethiopian Community Health Centres

Tesfaye Woldemariam^{1,2}, Meklit Abebe^{3,4}

Department of Surgery, Haramaya University | Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU) |
Department of Pediatrics, Haramaya University | Department of Internal Medicine, Adama Science and Technology
University (ASTU)

Correspondence: twoldemariam@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Background: Community health centres in low-resource settings face systemic challenges in implementing new health frameworks. There is a paucity of robust, field-based evidence on the determinants of successful adoption of such systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

Purpose and objectives: This study aimed to quantify the adoption rate of a novel health systems framework, the Integrated Systems Strength (ISS) model, among Ethiopian community health centres via a randomised field trial, and to identify key facility-level predictors of adoption.

Keywords: *health systems strengthening, community health centres, Sub-Saharan Africa, implementation science, randomised controlled trial, primary healthcare, Ethiopia*

Article Highlights

- Cluster-randomised trial across 60 Ethiopian community health centres.
- Facility readiness score emerged as the strongest predictor of successful adoption.
- Substantially higher integration of systems components with implementation support.
- Evidence supports scaling consideration for national health programmes.

Trial Design

60 centres were cluster-randomised to receive the ISS framework with support, or to continue standard practice. Adoption was measured via a validated checklist over 12 months.

This trial provides field-based evidence for scaling a novel health systems framework in low-resource settings.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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